

In the Claims

1-56 (Canceled).

57 (New). An isolated polypeptide comprising:

a) SEQ ID NO: 2;

b) SEQ ID NO: 4;

c) an active variant of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein any amino acid specified in the chosen sequence is non-conservatively substituted, provided that no more than 15% of the amino acid residues in the sequence are so changed and said active variant binds calcium ions; or

d) a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4, said fragment binding calcium ions.

58 (new). The isolated polypeptide according to claim 57, said polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2.

59 (new). The isolated polypeptide according to claim 57, said polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 4.

60 (new). The isolated polypeptide according to claim 57, said polypeptide comprising an active variant of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein any amino acid specified in the chosen sequence is non-conservatively substituted, provided that no more than 15% of the amino acid residues in the sequence are so changed and said active variant binds calcium ions.

61 (new). The isolated polypeptide according to claim 57, said polypeptide comprising a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4 and said fragment binds calcium ions.

62 (new). A peptide mimetic of the polypeptide according to claim 57.

63 (new). A method of treating a disease or disorder selected from skin damage, multiple sclerosis, cancer, bone, joint or ligament reconstruction after fractures or lesions, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, cardiovascular diseases or fibrosis comprising the administration of a composition in an amount effective to treat said disease or disorder in an individual, said composition comprising a carrier and a polypeptide comprising:

- a) SEQ ID NO: 2;
- b) SEQ ID NO: 4;
- c) an active variant of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein any amino acid specified in the chosen sequence is non-conservatively substituted, provided that no more than 15% of the amino acid residues in the sequence are so changed and said active variant binds calcium ions; or
- d) a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4, said fragment binding calcium ions.

64 (new). The method according to claim 63, wherein said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

65 (new). The method according to claim 63, wherein said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 4.

66 (new). The method according to claim 63, wherein said polypeptide comprises an active variant of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein any amino acid specified in the chosen sequence is non-conservatively substituted, provided that no more than 15% of the amino acid residues in the sequence are so changed and said active variant binds calcium ions.

67 (new). The method according to claim 63, wherein said polypeptide comprises a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4 and said fragment binds calcium ions.